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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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Rainy days of May, covid cases — some reasons officials are giving for why counting of trees has come to a pause again as environmentalists decry delay

SLOW COUNT

Census crucial to know city's ecological health, spot illegal cutting

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After being delayed due to manpower shortage and technical glitches, Bengaluru's tree census is now downshifted in first gear due to the onset of monsoon.

Sources in the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) say that while the on-ground tree enumeration exercise had gained some momentum over the past couple of months, it has decelerated due to many rainy days in May.

"In multiple zones of the city, on average, 5,000 to 6,000 trees were being digitised daily. Work was going on at a fast pace. However, unexpected rainy days over the last couple of weeks led to waterlogged areas, slowing the progress," said the source.

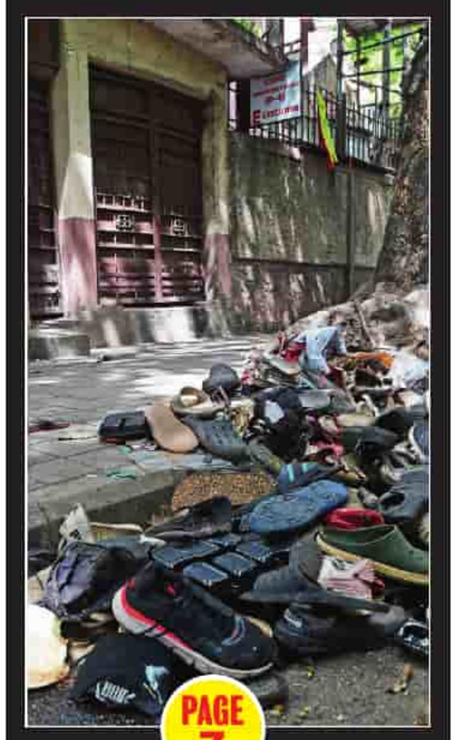
An increase in the number of covid-19 cases has also created

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

PROTESTS PUT SPOTLIGHT ON CANTONMENT'S TREES PAGE 4

BLAME SHIFTS

Citizens, retired officials term shake-ups in police force after stampede as scapegoating



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THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless music

Rishtey 6.0, a musical tribute, will be celebrating the timeless works of Salil Choudhary and RD Burman, musical maestros who left an indelible mark on Indian cinema and music. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: June 7, 5.45 pm**

02 Tea break

A 120-minute tea and calligraphy workshop is bringing together two slow-living rituals—mindful tea appreciation and creative modern calligraphy—with the aim of helping guests pause, create, and connect through sensory rituals. **Where: Freedom Tree Design Studio, Indiranagar; When: June 8, 3 pm**

03 Think green

Visthar is organising its cherished annual event, 'Bhoomi Habba – The Earth Festival'. This year, the event will focus on the critical themes of climate resilience and sustainable communities, offering a platform for reflection, learning, and engagement with alternative solutions for a just and equitable future. **Where: Visthar, Kothanur; When: June 7, 10 am to 7 pm**

04 Sk-etched legacy

Indian Institute of Cartoonists is presenting 'Through the Eyes of RK Laxman', a tribute exhibition in 78 colourful caricatures. The evocative collection offers a rare glimpse into the keen wit and unmatched artistic observation of a man who, for decades, held up a mirror to Indian society with both humour and grace. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Sivanchetti Gardens; When: June 7 to June 28**

05 It's showtime

Ranga Shankara is organising 'Tila', a puppet play for children above 6 years of age, about Tila, a trickster who always believes he is cleverer than others. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 8, 3.30 pm and 6 pm**

Eid al-Adha sends prices of goats skyrocketing

Certain breeds are being sold for ₹40,000 to ₹90,000, while in some cases, prices of goats weighing over 105 kg have crossed ₹1 lakh, depending on size and breed

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As Muslims across the city come together to celebrate Bakri Eid today, the spirit of devotion, sacrifice, and community is accompanied this year by a sharp rise in the price of sacrificial goats, a central element of the festival. Bakri Eid, also known as Eid al-Adha, is one of the most important Islamic festivals. It commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God, before God replaced the son with a ram. To honour this, Muslims around the world perform the act of Qurbani (sacrifice), usually of a goat, sheep, or any other halal animal, and distribute the meat amongst family, friends, and the less fortunate.

In Bengaluru, the festive buzz is high in areas like Shivajinagar, Tannery Road, Chamrajpet, Wilson Garden, and BTM Layout, where markets have been packed over the last few days. However, this year, the focus is not just on celebration, it's also on the prices. Prices of goats have skyrocketed, with some breeds like the Ameen Gadh, Bannur, Kirgawal, and Dumba being sold for Rs 40,000 to Rs 90,000. In some cases, prices of goats weighing over 105 kg have crossed Rs 1 lakh, depending on their size and breed.

"Compared to last year, we've seen a much larger crowd and higher sales this time. More people turned up, bought goats, and the overall demand has definitely gone up," said a seller. The seller said that well-fed, muscular breeds like Ameen Gadh, Bannur, Kirgawal, Dumba, and Chelna have attracted the most buyers, with some even opting for exotic imported goats, adding that bigger and healthier goats garner higher market demand.

> **"Compared to last year, we've seen a much larger crowd and higher sales this time** – Seller

Several makeshift goat markets, or 'santes', popped up in areas like Kolar and Tumakuru over the past week, drawing large crowds. Many came not just to buy, but to watch the lively bartering, admire prized goats, and even place informal bets on goat weights and looks, a quirky but growing trend in local markets.

Despite soaring prices, the spirit of Bakri Eid remains undeterred. Large crowds are expected to gather for early morning prayers at major mosques and areas like BG Road near Gurappanapalya, Millers Road (old Haj camp), Chamrajpet and BB Junction, after which families will return home to perform the Qurbani and share festive meals.

To ensure smooth celebrations, the city's traffic police have issued advisories and designated alternative routes, anticipating heavy footfall around mosques and market areas.

Bengaluru to be made greener

UnboxingBLR Foundation's (UBLR) 'Hasiru Bengaluru' urban-forestry initiative, in association with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), was inaugurated on Friday by the Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at Nehru Planetarium. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BBMP, UBLR has taken up 'Hasiru Bengaluru' with an aim to transform unused or underutilised public spaces into high-density micro-forests. BBMP will assist in identifying suitable sites, provide access for implementation, and facilitate the use of BBMP-owned parks and premises for public engagement and awareness programmes. To aid the initiative, saplings from government nurseries will be provided at no cost.

UBLR is forging alliances with organisations such as United Way Bengaluru, Bangalore Political Action Committee (BPAC), and Rainmatter Foundation, amongst others, to take this initiative further ahead.

Under the initiative, 100 mini or micro-forests within the city are planned over the next 18 months. Over time, the Hasiru Bengaluru micro-forests will also help restore biodiversity in degraded zones, offering habitat corridors for native flora and fauna. It is also expected to reduce the heat island effect and filter air pollutants for cleaner, cooler neighborhoods, support groundwater recharge by rebuilding natural ecological networks, and establish long-term, self-sustaining ecosystems that flourish without intensive upkeep. **— BMB**

Karnataka Shilpakala Academy to create unique sculptures from fallen trees

In a creative and eco-conscious initiative, the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy is set to transform fallen trees in Lalbagh into unique sculptures that enhance the garden's aesthetic appeal while promoting sustainable art. Recently, a 180-year-old Basari tree came crashing down in Lalbagh due to heavy rains. Rather than discarding the ancient wood, the Academy plans to repurpose it into a large-scale sculpture that will serve as a space for public enjoyment and recreation, particularly for children. The construction of this artwork is scheduled to begin soon. Lalbagh is home to many such old trees, and each year, a few of them naturally fall. The academy aims to creatively reuse these fallen trees by infusing them with sculptural artistry, thus crafting never-before-seen installations that elevate the garden's charm.

Technology-based art welcomed

"Today's young artists are increasingly turning to technology-based sculpting methods such as fiberglass and digital art. This shift is beneficial in many ways. If every artist were to use stone and wood exclusively, there would be a risk of increased tree cutting and excessive mining for stone. That would harm the environment," said MC Ramesh, President of the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy. He added that using trees that have already fallen for artistic purposes is an environmentally friendly solution that avoids further damage to nature.

Field visit and planning

MC Ramesh noted that he had visited the site to inspect the fallen tree. "Soon, I will revisit Lalbagh with sculpting experts to examine each part of the tree and determine how best to utilise it without wasting any portion. We'll then consult with senior officials to finalise the plan," he added. **— BMB**

'AI skills key for future engineers'

In Krishna Prasad Chitrapura, an alumnus of Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT) and Chief Scientist at Cuspera Inc, while speaking at the farewell ceremony for final-year students at RIT, said that students who learn and use artificial intelligence (AI) will be well-placed in the future job market.

He said that India's economic reforms in the 1990s brought major changes, and today, programming has become a basic skill. "We are now working closely with machines. Jobs are changing, and AI is becoming a big part of them," he said.

He advised students to combine their subject knowledge with AI tools. "This mix will help in solving real problems. In future, AI will do many tasks better than humans, so understanding how to use it is important," he said.

Krishna Prasad added that AI is being used in fields like medicine, biology, and maths. He urged students to contribute to the country through their work and stressed

the importance of time management and discipline.

Dr MR Seetharam, Chairman of Gokula Education Foundation, said that students must focus on patience, tolerance, and values as they help build strong careers. "We've also introduced a course in cybersecurity to handle rising online threats. While AI is helpful, it should be used with care," he said. Other guests at the event included Vice Chairman MR Janakiram, Directors MR Sampangi Ramaiah and MR Kodandaram, Principal Dr NVR Naidu, Chief Executive Dr HV Parshvanath, and Chief Academic Advisor Dr Karisiddappa. **— BMB**

Benefits of home automation

The benefits of Home Automation are immense, and every user can gain from Smart Home Automation depending on their use cases. Below is just a quick summary of some of the key benefits:

It's Convenient!

Almost any device imaginable can be connected to the internet for a seamless experience. IoT-powered automation not only makes our lives easier, more convenient, but also saves energy and reduces costs.

Imagine turning on your air conditioner before you reach home on a blistering summer day so that you arrive at a cool home; or turning off the lights or your favourite music as soon as you fall asleep. Voice-activated technology has become a hidden boon for children and the elderly at home. The ability to automate these processes allows individuals to complete tasks in fewer steps as these smart, connected devices are making our lives easier, more productive, and healthier, while also pushing innovation to new heights.

It's Smart and Secure!

A home automation system provides a certain level of security for both your home and its occupants. These systems allow people to easily control equipment and lighting, reducing the risk of accidents due to forgotten equipment or lack of lighting. For example, motion sensors can be used to trigger lighting for small children or elderly people at home so that they don't accidentally fall in the dark, especially on staircases or in corridors.

Wifi IP Cameras are also extremely useful to monitor your home in your absence and also keep a watch on your pets in your absence. These remote surveillance systems can give you a direct video feed on your mobile and help keep your home safe from intruders when you are out or on vacation.

It's Cost effective!

The high costs associated with traditional security systems can deter many people from trying to improve their home security. Home automation systems offer a cost-effective alternative that allows individuals to remotely lock and unlock doors, grant entry to trusted individuals, and prevent unwanted intrusions.

–Times of India

IN HIGH COURT

Speeding not always negligence

Court: High speed alone isn't enough to prove criminal negligence

The Karnataka High Court has determined that driving at high speed alone does not constitute rashness or negligence under law, leading to the acquittal of a person previously convicted under IPC Sections 279 and 304A for a fatal motor accident.

Justice Rajesh Rai K, presiding over a single-judge bench, observed that "rashness and negligence are multi-faceted concepts which cannot be comprehended and interpreted in isolation. It significantly depends on the facts and circumstances of each case."

The Court referred to the Supreme Court's ruling in State of Karnataka vs Satish (1998), where it was held that high speed alone is not sufficient to prove rash or negligent driving unless supported by other incriminating circumstances. The judgment reinforces the idea that liability for accidents must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering surrounding evidence.

The petitioner, represented by Advocate Pavan Kumar MS, had challenged the concurrent findings of the Trial Court and the First Appellate Court, which had convicted him for allegedly causing a fatal accident. Government Pleader Channappa Erappa appeared for the State.

As per the prosecution, the accused was driving the car that allegedly struck a motorbike, leading to the death of its rider. The complaint was filed by the pillion rider, who claimed that he had stopped to relieve himself when the incident occurred. Based on his statement, a case was registered, and the accused was convicted by the lower courts.

However, the High Court found inconsistencies in the evidence presented. The testimony of the prosecution's sole eyewitness (PW-1) was found to be questionable. "The evidence of this witness generates doubt in the mind of the Court that he is a chance witness, who appeared out of thin air and later disappeared after adducing evidence," the Court stated.

PW-1 was also absent during the spot inspection and identified the vehicle only at the police station. He admitted the accused called him and took the injuried to the hosptial.

–BMB

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BBMP demands clarifications on controversial tree proposal

With mounting objections from citizens and environmentalists, BBMP has formally requested RLDA to review its controversial plan to cut 368 Cantonment trees

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The Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has asked the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) to reconsider its proposed commercial project at Cantonment railway station, which has faced severe public backlash since its announcement. According to BBMP's Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), RLDA has also been asked to furnish a detailed response for every question and query raised by citizens during the public consultation meeting held on May 20.

"We have asked higher officials of RLDA to reconsider the project, looking at objections raised by the public. Public sentiment is clearly against the proposed project. BBMP has also recorded the proceedings on May 20 and handed it over to RLDA for a detailed response. A general reply to public concerns will not be admissible," said BLG Swamy, DCF, BBMP.

Citizens got to know about the project when BBMP put out a public notice on April 25, stating RLDA's intention to remove 368 trees for commercial development at the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony campus. Following the notice, BBMP was flooded with objections against the proposal.

Later, RLDA officials informed that the project is to ensure a source of revenue for Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE). The agency stated that the Bengaluru suburban rail project was approved by the Railway Board with a total cost of Rs 15,767 crore, with a completion period of 6 years. While 20% of this cost is borne by the State government and 20% by the Centre, the remaining 60% is through loans.

As per RLDA, out of the Railway share of Rs 2,479 crore (20%), Rs 500 crore is through budgetary support and the remaining through the returns of monetisation of land parcels identified in the project report.

City-based tree activists say, after the stormy public consultation held on May 20, RLDA should withdraw the proposal and consider establishing the project at an alternate site.

"The railway should respect people's opinions and look for an alternative location. Even the Forest Minister of Karnataka spoke about the protection of the 368 trees proposed to be removed for the project," said Vijay Nishant, a member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC).

Notably, after the public outcry, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre instructed that action be taken for the protection of the 368 trees on the Cantonment Railway Colony campus proposed to be felled for a commercial project.

A letter issued from his office also stated that rules will be framed to bring the request of cutting down more than 50 trees to the notice of the Forest Minister, after obtaining the government's permission.

On World Environment Day, activists and religious leaders, including heads of mutts, joined citizens in a discussion and rally against the proposed felling of 368 trees in Cantonment Railway Colony at Vasanth Nagar

> **"The railway should respect people's opinions and look for an alternative location. Even the Forest Minister of Karnataka spoke about the protection of the 368 trees**
> – Vijay Nishant, Member, Bengaluru Biodiversity Management Committee

Delay after delay hits tree census

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

panic among workers, although no infection has been reported from the team.

Experts say Bengaluru's tree census outcome will provide clarity on the way to create a city with healthy living conditions. However, unreasonable delays have left many in dismay.

"The excuses being cited for the delay in completion of the project are rubbish. We must complete the census as soon as possible to have clarity on the living conditions of the city. Going by the popular understanding of seven trees per person, Bengaluru should have around 10 crore trees. The census will give the existing number of trees," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust. BBMP started the tree census in February 2024 with a fund allocation of a little over Rs 3.74 crore. The project deadline, initially expected to be August 2024, was postponed to November but faced further delays as the civic agency cancelled tenders for Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and Yelahanka due to contractor slowdowns. The final deadline was set as March 2025. However, as recently as last month, the project in Mahadevapura, RR Nagar, and Bengaluru South got stalled due to slow progress made by the contractor again, leading to BBMP floating new tenders to carry out tree enumeration in these areas.

> **"The excuses being cited for the delay in completion of the project are rubbish. We must complete the census as soon as possible to have clarity on the living conditions of the city**
> — Dattatreya Devare, Bangalore Environment Trust

Apart from the number of trees in the city, the results will also throw light on the geographical distribution of the trees along with species richness. An assessment of differences in tree density, species composition across Bengaluru's different zones will be indicative of Bengaluru's existing environmental and ecological health, experts say.

"The census will also help spot illegal tree felling. Today, when illegal tree felling happens, the logs and branches are cleared overnight without a trace," said a tree activist.

Saplings planted

Many social organisations, resident welfare associations, and private firms across the city celebrated World Environment Day on Thursday with various green initiatives. At Bangalore University, the Department of Education marked the occasion with a programme themed 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

A cleanliness drive was on June 4, where students cleared plastic waste and weeds from the campus garden. The celebration began with an awareness march around the university, with students raising slogans against plastic use. Dr Nagaraja inaugurated the event by planting a sapling in the department garden, underscoring the importance of environmental responsibility. He explained the origins of World Environment Day, causes of plastic pollution, and the urgent need to address its impact on ecosystems and health. He urged individual responsibility and praised the department's efforts, inviting M Ed students to join research and awareness campaigns. Saplings were distributed to students to encourage personal commitment. **— BMB**

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Waste zone

Thirumenahalli

Authorities must verify the nationality of residents in two slums on Thirumenahalli Main Road, near a college playground. The area faces issues like littering, garbage burning, and illegal power use.

Park neglect

BTM Layout

Damaged gym equipment at Kuvempu Park in BTM Layout 2nd Stage poses a safety risk, especially to senior citizens who frequent the area.

Footpath obstruction

HSR Layout

For years, the footpath along 27th Main Road in HSR Layout has remained unusable due to dumped waste and concrete debris, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road.

AFTER STAMPEDE

HC halts police action against KSCA

The High Court on Friday issued an order preventing police action against three Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) managing committee members regarding the FIR filed after the M. Chinnaswamy stadium stampede, where 11 people lost their lives during RCB's victory celebrations on June 4, 2025.

Justice SR Krishna Kumar delivered the interim ruling on petitions submitted by KSCA's president Raghuram Bhat, secretary A. Shankar and treasurer E.S. Jairam.

KSCA clarified that it merely leased the stadium to Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited (RCSPL), RCB's owner, and assisted in obtaining governmental permissions. RCB managed stadium access through DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

The association contended that their inclusion alongside RCB and DNA served to deflect public criticism from government officials allegedly responsible for the incident.

The petition noted that KSCA and DNA representatives had sought the Chief Minister's support, with a programme organised at Vidhana Soudha under the State Chief Secretary's guidance. **–BMB**

Complaint against Virat Kohli

A formal complaint has been filed seeking action against cricketer Virat Kohli in connection with the stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4.

The complainant alleges that Kohli, the face of the RCB team, incited massive public gathering by pressuring organisers to host celebrations in Bengaluru the day after their win in Ahmedabad. It is claimed that in his haste to leave for London, Kohli encouraged the event without ensuring public safety, leading to the stampede. Describing IPL as a "form of gambling," the complainant criticised the league's entertainment-centric format and targeted Kohli for being the face of such events. He called for Kohli and the team to be named in the FIR under multiple IPC sections including 304A (causing death by negligence), 268 (public nuisance), and the Karnataka Public Safety Measures Enforcement Act.

— MORE NEWS ON PAGE 7

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STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

PAWS AND PEACE

Our reader shares a heartwarming picture of a dog and a cat, capturing their bond. "We eat, play, and stay together," the image seems to say, proving that friendship knows no bounds.

The picture was clicked by reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Flyover planned inside BU campus to ease traffic, ensure safety

Government proposes 2-km flyover at Jnanabharathi to curb accidents, reduce chaos, and protect student learning environment

The state government is considering the construction of a dedicated flyover inside the Bangalore University Jnanabharathi campus to streamline traffic and ensure student safety by segregating public vehicles from internal campus roads.

Spread across 1,200 acres, the Jnanabharathi campus has four major entry points, with the main gate linking Mysuru Road to Ullal Road. The Department of Higher Education has proposed a 2-kilometre-long flyover connecting these two roads. The aim is to facilitate smoother access for commuters while minimizing disruptions to academic life on campus.

According to officials, the campus houses 54 departments and hosts thousands of students, many of whom reside in nearby hostels. The daily movement of public vehicles particularly during peak hours has led to increased air and noise pollution, traffic congestion, and a noticeable decline in the overall learning environment. A sharp rise in accidents has also raised alarms, including a tragic incident where a university student lost their life after being hit by a BMTC bus.

Heavy traffic through BU campus disrupts classes, raises pollution levels and compromises student safety

Taking these concerns into account, the government has identified the flyover as a viable long-term solution. The Higher Education Department is currently in the process of preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR), which will outline the technical and financial aspects of the project. Once the DPR is complete, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will evaluate the cost and feasibility. Given the proposed length, officials expect the budget to be substantial.

In response to the fatal accident, the university had initially shut down operations for a brief period. Although public protests led to the reopening of campus gates during the day, night-time restrictions remain in place. Despite these measures, students have reported ongoing disturbances caused by public vehicles using the campus roads as a shortcut, especially the route connecting Mysuru Road to Ullal Main Road. Complaints include noise disruption, illegal parking, and interference with classes. Students have been urging the administration to ban public vehicles inside the campus entirely. Many have pointed out that unlike other large university campuses in India, Jnanabharathi remains unusually accessible to external traffic.

> **"We are considering a flyover inside campus to avoid inconveniencing students and public; banning vehicles isn't feasible** – Dr MC Sudhakar

Acknowledging these concerns, Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar said the government is seriously considering the flyover proposal. Vice-Chancellor Dr SM Jayakar added that while a complete vehicle ban isn't practical, the flyover would significantly ease congestion, improve safety, and help restore a conducive academic environment without cutting off public connectivity. **— BMB**

DID YOU KNOW?

Astronomers have discovered a massive planet orbiting an unusually small star, defying current theories of planetary formation. The star, TOI-6894, is located about 240 light-years away in the constellation Leo and has just 21% the mass of the Sun. Yet, it hosts a gas giant roughly the size of Saturn much larger than expected for such a small star. This challenges existing models, which suggest that small stars form only small, rocky planets like Earth. Forming giant planets typically requires large amounts of material in a protoplanetary disk, which small stars aren't thought to possess. "It's hard to build a giant planet in such conditions," said study co-author Vincent Van Eylen. The planet completes an orbit in just three days, lying 40 times closer to its star than Earth is to the Sun. Despite its close orbit, it's cooler than typical "hot Jupiters." Its mass is 56% that of Saturn and 17% of Jupiter.
Data from NASA's TESS and the ESO's VLT were used for the discovery, with further observations planned using the James Webb Space Telescope. **— AP**

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Is there a new govt scheme offering earnings of ₹10,000 per day? PIB clarifies

A fraudulent website falsely claims that Prime Minister Modi launched a project enabling citizens to earn up to ₹10,000 daily, leading to ATM queues. PIB Fact Check has debunked this as fake, warning against sharing personal or financial information on such deceptive sites

In today's digital age, scams are increasingly sophisticated, often targeting unsuspecting individuals with enticing promises of quick financial gain. Recently, a fraudulent website professing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new project allowing citizens to earn up to Rs 10,000 per day has gone viral. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check has refuted this claim, labelling it as fake.

PIB Fact Check
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#Fraudulent_Website_Alert
A #FAKE website is falsely claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a project allowing citizens to earn up to ₹10,000 per day.
#PIBFactCheck
The Government of India has NOT made any such announcement.
Be cautious! Do NOT Show more
The claim that people can earn upto ₹ 10,000 per day as PM Modi unveil a new project is FAKE
Long queues form at ATMs after Narendra Modi unveiled his new project that enables people to earn up to 10,000 local rupees per day.
FAKE

What is the fake claim about?

According to a PIB Fact Check post on social media X, the fraudulent website is making false claims, stating that "long queues form at ATMs after PM Narendra Modi unveiled his new project that enables people to earn up to 10,000 local rupees per day."

PIB Fact Check's warning

The PIB Fact Check team, a trusted government initiative to combat misinformation, has issued a clear warning about this scam. They have stamped the claim as fake and urged citizens to be cautious. Sharing personal or financial information on such websites can lead to identity theft, financial loss, or other forms of fraud.

The PIB emphasises:

- Do NOT share your personal or financial details on suspicious websites.
- Always verify claims through official government sources before taking action.

How to identify fake government websites?

Here are simple ways to cross-check if it is a government website announcing any new scheme or project, according to the Delhi cybercrime website.

1. If you come across a website providing government jobs, financial perks, subsidies, and so on that appears to be deceptively similar to a government website, please check the website's credentials.
2. You may contact the parent government department or Tweet to PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck regarding verification of any government portal.
3. Remember, websites having the extension '.gov.in' are genuine government websites. Other sites having extensions '.in' or '.org' and posing as government websites may be viewed with suspicion, and their credentials may be verified before making any financial transactions or sharing personal information.
4. A website with official emblems, such as 'Áshoka' or 'Swachch Bharat', does not necessarily indicate a government site. Use additional means to check the site's credentials.
5. A legitimate government site will contain several cross-references on government websites, social media posts, and so on, whereas a fake government site will not be referenced to in other government portals.

Reshuffle: Key IPS officers get new charges

Just hours after assuming office, Bengaluru's new Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh addressed the stampede incident, assuring that investigations are progressing in a systematic manner.

Meanwhole the government announced changes in the police department's senior leadership on Friday. ADGP Hemant M Nimbalkar moves to Public Relations Commissioner; Senior IPS officer Ravi S transfers to Intelligence both posted as ADGP. R Hithendra, IPS, ADGP (Law & Order), has been given additional charge of Traffic and Road Safety; S Murugan, IPS, ADGP (Communication, Logistics and Modernization), will also oversee Police Recruitment. KV Sharath Chandra, IPS, is posted as ADGP & Principal Secretary (PCAS), also taking charge of the Police Housing Corporation.

3rd FIR against RCB, KSCA, DNA Entertainment

A total of three FIRs have been registered in connection with the stampede near Chinnaswamy Stadium in Cubbon Park Police station. A B.Com final-year student, C Venu, who suffered serious injuries during the event on June 4, has filed the second complaint on Friday. Venu had learnt about the event through RCB's official social media handles and news channels. Posts suggested that entry would be allowed without tickets and that some tickets would also be distributed at the gate. Another complaint was filed by Rolan Gomez, a resident of Rajarajeshwari Nagar, who also sustained injuries during the event. The fan said crowd mismanagement led to chaos near the stadium.

RCB Marketing Head, 3 event organisers in judicial custody

Police on Friday arrested Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Head of Marketing and Revenue, Nikhil Sosale, and three members of DNA Entertainment Networks. Sosale was taken into custody at Bengaluru airport while attempting to fly to Mumbai. The others arrested include Kiran Kumar (Senior Event Manager), Sunil Mathew (Vice President - Business Affairs), and Sumanth, all of DNA, the event's organisers.

Earlier the High Court had deferred hearing a petition filed Sosale contesting his arrest. Despite initially observing that an FIR was sufficient grounds for arrest, the court, considering the matter involved individual liberty, postponed the proceedings to Monday.

As stampede victims file complaints, police have arrested three in connection with the stampede

Scapegoat tactic? State govt slammed for shifting blame

Netizens, former top cops lash out against suspension of Police Commissioner

Sanjana CS
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Newly-appointed Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh; Dayananda's removal slammed

The suspension of former Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda after the stampede outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday has sparked widespread outrage. Netizens slammed the government's decision, calling it unfair and a blow to one of the city's most respected top cops. Several netizens questioned whether cops were being made scapegoats for the government's poor planning.

Retired police commissioner Jyothi Prakash Mirji criticised the government's handling of recent events, calling its actions "irresponsible". "This government should be ashamed. They claim to work in confidence with officials, but this decision shows a complete lack of trust and transparency," he said.

Jyothi Prakash said before suspending an officer of that level, at least a preliminary inquiry should have been conducted by the DG, Home Secretary, or Chief Secretary.

Jyothi Prakash questioned the role of top bureaucrats. "Are the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary not accountable?"

Meanwhile a letter of June 3 had surfaced written by KSCA to the state government seeking permission to organise a felicitation event on the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha in the event of an RCB victory. A letter was sent to the police requesting their opinion on the proposal. However, sources within the police department revealed that they were not in favour of holding the event at Vidhana Soudha. R Ashoka, Leader of the Opposition of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, likened the government's actions to sacrificing others to save themselves, saying, "They wanted glory by rushing the event. We won the IPL, we celebrated, and they just grabbed the credit." He also pointed out that today's FIR clearly states the felicitation event was organised by the government. "Despite police working overnight to manage 10–15 lakh people, they weren't given even 24 hours to prepare. Was there a war? What was the urgency?" he asked.

Former Police commissioner Bhaskar Rao also lashed out at the state government on social media. "The suspension of Bengaluru City Police Commissioner is the darkest day in the History of Karnataka Police..." The suspension many say diverts attention from broader institutional failures. "This was not a policing failure alone. It was a collective collapse of planning, administration, and event management," said Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarified that the action was not politically motivated. He told the media, "Only those who were primarily responsible and showed dereliction of duty have been suspended."

Head constable's emphatic protest

A head constable staged a lone protest against the suspension of B Dayanand, blaming the public's disregard for police instructions for the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede. Wearing a black armband and holding a photo of Dr. BR Ambedkar, Narasimharaju walked from Vidhana Soudha to Raj Bhavan, urging the Governor to revoke the suspension. He alleged that police are being treated like brokers and criticised political interference in the force. "Whether it's Congress, BJP, or JD(S) — whatever they say, we are expected to obey. By evening, we are running to ministers' houses, bowing to their demands. This is our reality now," he said. He added that political interference has left the force powerless, unable to conduct proper investigations or apprehend criminals. BMB

ADVT.

Visionary Entrepreneur

Yogish (Rohith) M. Patil

Honored with VK Kayaka Puraskara on the occasion of Basava Jayanti

Achievements in the Digital Education Sector
Patents for Six Products

The journey of visionary entrepreneur Yogish (Rohith) M. Patil, who possesses an unwavering passion for excellence in the field of education, began during the early stages of digital education. In 2013, Yogish (Rohith) Patil founded Vidwath with the goal of making education accessible to all through digital methods. With a degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering and a postgraduate degree in Business Administration (MBA Marketing), he initially formed a small team with the objective of developing content-based software. This laid the foundation for the start of Vidwath, which held a grand vision. Due to Rohith's dedication and foresight, various digital EdTech products were invented, causing the organization to grow to a higher level. The company's growth became evident with the establishment of branch offices across the state of Karnataka.

Words of Wisdom

Success in any profession whether it's entrepreneurship or employment comes through consistent hard work. It is essential to choose a career that aligns with your own interests and passion. Ensure that the path you pursue is one you've chosen for yourself, not one imposed by others. A fulfilling and successful journey begins when your profession reflects your purpose, not pressure.

Rohith's innovative spirit has led to the development of six patented products, a testament to Vidwath's commitment to expanding the boundaries of digital education. The goal of giving high priority to rural education is what makes Vidwath stand out. This is a dream that Rohith has passionately pursued. Through indigenously developed Smart Digital All-in-One products, Vidwath has made quality education easily accessible and affordable for students in rural areas.

Rohith's journey as an entrepreneur is not just a story of a successful business; it is a narrative of social impact. Our entrepreneur began his professional journey as a hardware professional in Bengaluru and succeeded despite facing the challenges of selling hardware components.

Vidwath Innovative Solutions, once a one-person effort, has now evolved into a collaborative endeavor. This emphasizes the philosophy that true success is measured by the collective progress of the team.

Mr Yogish (Rohith) M. Patil received VK Kayaka Puraskara on the occasion of Basava Jayanti an event held in Mysuru. The award was presented by Shri Shri Shri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji of Suttur Math. Also present were MLA T.S. Srivatsa (Krishnaraja Constituency), Dr. Sharanappa V. Halse (Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University), and Prof. N.K. Lolakshi (Director, Kuvempu Kannada Adhyayana Samsthe, University of Mysore)

AWARDS

To date, he has been the recipient of numerous prestigious accolades, including:

2019: Award for the Fastest Growing Indian Company at the International Achievers Conference.
2019: KarnatakadaSadhakaru Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Education Sector.
2023: India 5000 Best MSME Award.
2024: Business Era's Entrepreneur of the Year Award.
2024: Star of Karnataka Entrepreneur of the Year Award.
2024: Global Star Award for Excellence in Digital Content for Anganwadi, Kannada, and Urdu medium governmentrural /aided/private schools.

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Affordable real estate gaining momentum near Kudur

The stretch near Kudur on Kunigal Road is fast becoming a preferred destination for affordable housing seekers and first-time home buyers. Located within reasonable distance from Bengaluru, this region offers the rare combination of serenity, space, and price — a combination hard to find in the city.

"Compared to the skyrocketing prices in Bengaluru's core areas, Kudur offers land at nearly 40-50% lower rates," said Raghavendra S, a local real estate agent who has been dealing in properties along Kunigal Road for over a decade. "You can get a 30x40 plot here at the price of a single-bedroom rent deposit in Bengaluru," he said.

Buyers echo similar sentiments. Deepika R, an IT employee who recently booked a 2 BHK house near Kudur,

Affordability and accessibility make Kunigal road popular amongst buyers

shared, "I wanted to escape the chaos of the city without giving up on connectivity. The Tumakuru Road and NICE corridor make commuting manageable, and the peaceful surroundings here are a huge plus." The area is not just about affordability — it's also about potential. With upcoming road widening and infrastructural improvements, property appreciation is expected to be steady.

"Investing here is like buying Bengaluru outskirts 15 years ago," said Naveen Rao, a property developer working on plotted layouts in the region. "Demand is rising from young families and retired professionals looking for clean air, more space, and long-term value," he noted. From independent homes to farm plots and gated layouts, the variety of offerings makes Kudur an attractive choice. Whether it's for investment or peaceful living, Kunigal Road near Kudur is drawing attention for all the right reasons — affordability, accessibility, and future promise.

-Prakash VL

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Demand for ready-to-build plots on the rise

The areas surrounding Devanahalli International Airport Road have witnessed a sharp surge in interest, particularly for ready-for-registration and construction plots in developed layouts. With 100% legal documentation, clear titles, and government approvals, these plots offer a hassle-free investment opportunity. "Buyers are increasingly looking for peace of mind when it comes to legality, and that's exactly what we provide.
Our layouts come with DC conversion, and all clearances, making them bank loan eligible and safe for both construction and resale," said Pramod Shetty, a real estate developer. **-BMB**

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HEALTH TIP: Thorough babyproofing assessment of the home and addressing potential hazards can reduce risk of accidents or injuries to toddlers

Rock salt is a traditional source of natural iodine, which is vital for thyroid hormone production

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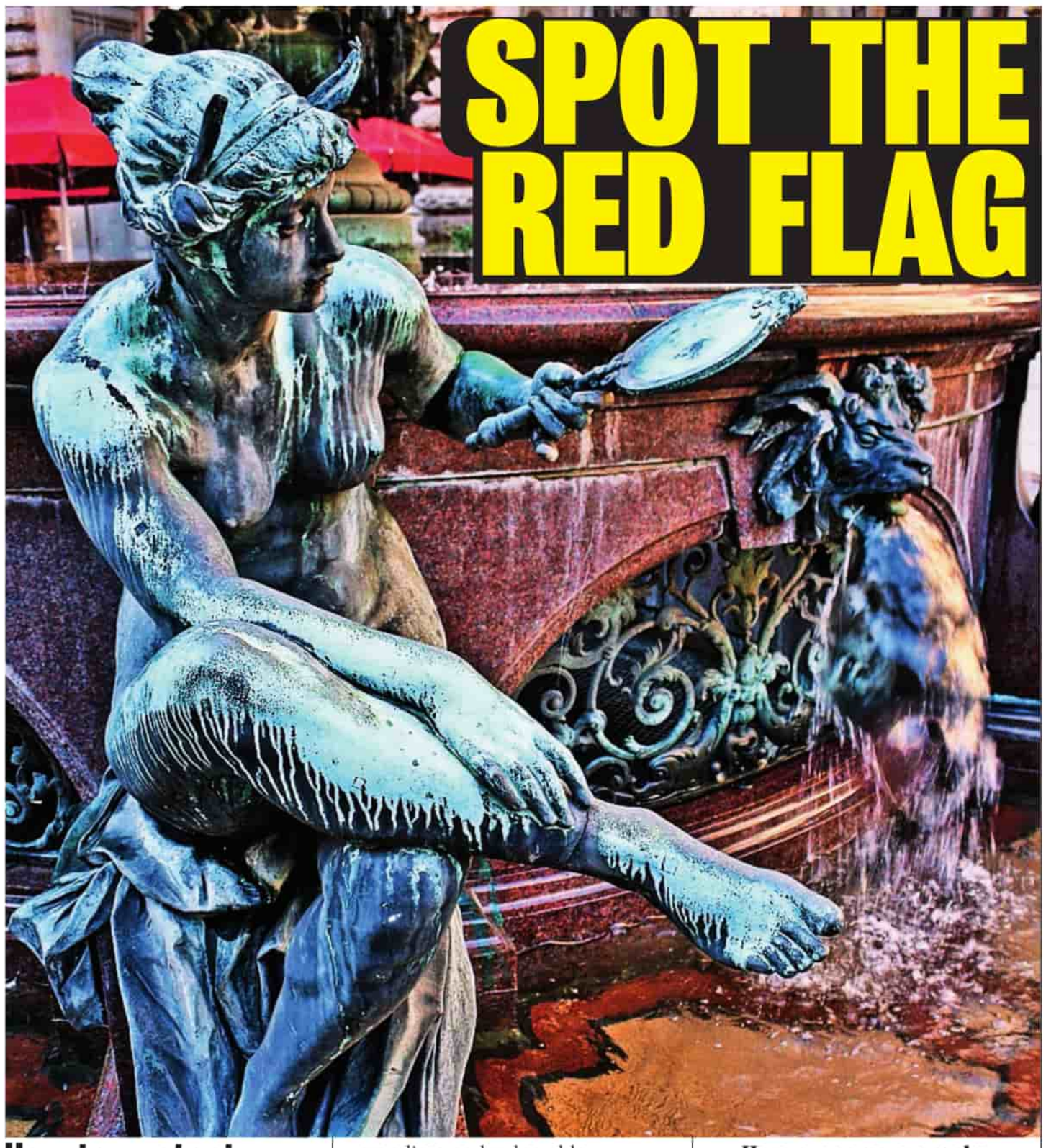


How to protect yourself from narcissists' weapon of choice – passive aggression

Imagine asking a coworker to help you on a project, and although they agree, they suddenly "forget" whenever the deadline approaches. Or a friend saying "you look beautiful today, I barely recognised you," after you show them your new haircut.

Perhaps you know all too well the feeling of a parent or partner ignoring you following some perceived slight.

On the surface this behaviour may seem relatively minor. But if it happens often, this could indicate a narcissist is using passive-aggressive behaviour to try and hurt you.

To protect yourself, it helps to know where a narcissist is coming from.

The term "narcissist" can refer to people with high levels of narcissism, not necessarily that they have a clinical diagnosis of narcissistic personality disorder. There are generally two types: grandiose and vulnerable.

Grandiose narcissists usually view themselves as special and superior to others and are likely to brag about their achievements. Vulnerable narcissists tend to be self-conscious, sensitive to the slightest criticism and have an insatiable need for external appreciation.

Both can be self-centred and prone to aggression, though passive-aggressive behaviour may be more often used by vulnerable narcissists.

One explanation for their behaviour could be their motivation to become dominant and gain status. For example, they may feel like belittling their competition strengthens chances of getting a promotion at work. Another reason is that they can be thin-skinned. Any negative evaluation against them, like being left out of a work social event, may trigger a defensive reaction to attack another person to try and maintain their self-esteem.

They also have a tendency to feel ostracised even when it's not true. Research has shown that when narcissists are provoked, they tend to respond with aggression. Subtly undermining someone is more deniable than overt ways of expressing their anger and resentment.

Here are some examples to help you spot when it's happening:

- social exclusion – avoiding eye contact, ignoring messages, excluding you from their social media account or withholding affection to punish you
- hostile undertone – making fun of others through jokes, backhanded compliments or sending messages that suggest you are at fault while minimising their role in a conflict
- indirect criticism – sharing embarrassing stories, or trying to undermine you by gossiping to others
- sabotage – regularly leaving tasks that are their responsibility to complete to the last minute, and making it your problem.

Such behaviour on its own might not be much bother, but being exposed to it regularly could cause distress. As an example, repeatedly being socially excluded at work has been linked to emotional exhaustion and reduced wellbeing.

Research on victims of narcissistic behaviour is limited, perhaps because passive-aggressive behaviour is often hidden. But the research we do have has shown people on the receiving end of narcissistic abuse experience anxiety, depression, low self-worth and a tendency to prioritise others' needs over their own.

How you can protect yourself

Given that narcissists react aggressively to criticism, it's probably best not to fight fire with fire. The following approaches may help.

Set clear boundaries. Make it clear you will not tolerate such behaviour. You could say something like: "I noticed you are not responding. I am willing to chat with you when you are ready to talk respectfully."

Emotional detachment. Narcissists will probably throw digs or sarcastic comments your way to get a reaction. Once they get a reaction, the cycle escalates. One helpful technique may be "grey rocking", where you keep your interactions and responses as brief and as uninteresting as possible. When a sarcastic comment is made, you could just say "yep" or "noted".

Look after yourself. Prioritise your own needs and your wellbeing. For instance, immerse yourself in hobbies you enjoy or have fun with friends. Try also to make space for reflection so you can avoid internalising their comments. It's about them, not you.

Seek support. Reaching out to people you trust or seeking professional support from a counsellor may help to strengthen your resilience. In the context of work, you may reach out to HR if the passive-aggressive behaviour is persistent, but remember to document everything and be factual. This may help minimise a narcissist's efforts to gaslight you or others.

Power imbalance

Not everyone can easily create distance between themselves and that narcissistic person they know. Some people may be living with a narcissist, work with one, or they could be part of their social circle.

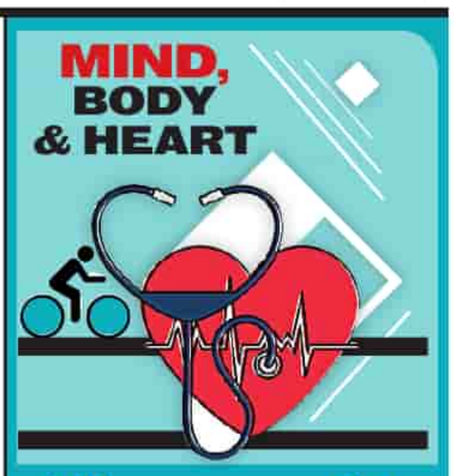
Given that narcissists often crave status, there's a good chance there may be a power imbalance between you. This can be tricky as you may feel intimidated if they persistently use passive-aggressive behaviour, if they are senior to you at work for instance.

In this situation, it's even more important to save important email chains, log conversations and seek support from HR if needed. If there's a power imbalance with someone outside work, take extra care to set clear boundaries with them.

Each situation is different, and some things will be beyond your control.

What you can do though is focus on what's within your control: your reactions, your wellbeing, and the support systems around you.

(By Daniel Waldeck, Coventry University and Rachael Leggett, Covenant University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Periods span

Longer, the better
Women with early onset of periods, and later menopause -- which means a longer reproductive span -- can have a healthier brain ageing in life, according to a study.

Reduces dementia risk
The study showed how a woman's reproductive years may shape brain health later in life and also reduce the risk of dementia.
It also suggested the role of oestradiol (or the lack thereof) in the development of dementia.

Oestradiol levels
Oestradiol levels rise at puberty, remain high during most of a woman's reproductive life, and then decline sharply around menopause. This drop in oestradiol has been linked to an increased risk of dementia and other age-related brain conditions.
"These findings support the idea that oestradiol -- the most potent and prevalent form of oestrogen during a woman's reproductive years -- may help protect the brain as it ages," said lead researcher Eileen Lueders, Associate Professor from the University of Auckland's School of Psychology.

Hormone treatment
The research may point toward the potential for health interventions such as hormone treatment in the years leading up to menopause and immediately afterward to combat an increased risk of Alzheimer's for some women.
The team applied a machine learning approach to analyse both cross-sectional and longitudinal data from a sample of 1,006 postmenopausal women who underwent structural magnetic resonance imaging twice, approximately 2 years apart. Women with earlier menarche, later menopause, and a longer reproductive span (that is, the time interval between menarche and menopause) showed less brain ageing. Other factors -- like genetics, lifestyle, and overall health -- also influence brain ageing. **—IANS**

Rising demand for farmland near Bengaluru

In recent years, a noticeable shift has been seen among city residents seeking peaceful escapes from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Increasingly, people are looking beyond the concrete structures of Bengaluru to farmlands on the outskirts, which offer a blend of tranquility, natural beauty, and promising financial returns. This growing inclination towards farmland is driving significant demand in regions around Bengaluru, especially in areas such as Ramanagara, Magadi Main Road, and the Bengaluru-Mysuru corridor.

As the cityscape becomes more congested, many residents are yearning for a weekend home where they can relax in green surroundings, breathe fresh air, and rejuvenate. Farmland presents an attractive option for such weekend getaways, offering a peaceful refuge amidst lush fields and open skies. More than just a retreat, these lands also serve as a reliable investment with the potential to generate substantial future income.

One of the main attractions of farmland ownership is the ability to cultivate commercial crops, fruits, and aromatic plants such as sandalwood which can yield a steady source of revenue. Many landowners engage in farming activities during their visits, combining relaxation with productive use of the land. This integration of leisure and livelihood is highly appealing to urban dwellers who want to stay connected with nature while securing additional income.

According to real estate experts, farmland prices on the outskirts of Bengaluru have shown consistent appreciation, with some plots expected to double in value within a few years. This potential for capital growth has drawn interest not only from Bengaluru residents but also from people in nearby cities such as Mysuru. The relatively low initial cost, combined with future value appreciation, makes farmland an attractive proposition for both first-time investors and seasoned buyers.

A realtor said Ramanagara's recent inclusion in the Greater Bengaluru region is a major factor boosting demand and property values. "Ramanagara is quickly becoming a preferred extension of Bengaluru to the south. With planned infrastructure upgrades and government support, the area is poised for rapid growth, making farmland investments here highly lucrative," said the realtor.

The realtor further explained that buyers can either develop these lands into private weekend homes or lease them out to generate rental income, providing a dual advantage.

The rise in farmland demand reflects a broader lifestyle trend amongst urban residents seeking balance between city work and nature-based living. The chance to escape the city's noise and pollution for quiet weekends in green surroundings, combined with the prospect of long-term financial benefits, is driving many to explore this real estate segment.

Moreover, farmland ownership aligns with growing environmental and health awareness, as people increasingly value organic farming, fresh produce, and sustainable living.

With its unique blend of natural beauty, agricultural potential, and rising market value, farmland offers city-dwellers a way to reconnect with nature while securing their financial future. As infrastructure improves and interest grows, the demand for farmland is expected to surge further, making now an ideal time for buyers to explore opportunities in this thriving real estate sector.

–Prakash VL

Bengaluru emerges as prime market for office space retrofitting

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru's commercial real estate market is poised for a major transformation, as a new report by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd has highlighted massive potential in retrofitting existing office spaces. Titled 'From Existing to Exceptional: A Strategic Approach to Retrofitting Indian Office Spaces', the study estimated that nearly 130-140 million sq ft of the city's 230 million sq ft office stock is ripe for upgradation—presenting a significant opportunity for value creation.

Key micro-markets such as Outer Ring Road, Whitefield, and the Extended Business District are identified as the hotspots for modernisation. These areas not only hold the greatest retrofitting potential but also promise varying rental premiums upon upgrade. CBRE estimates that Bengaluru alone represents an investment potential of INR 95–162 billion through targeted improvements in ageing office assets.

India's broader office market too, shows considerable opportunity, with nearly 50% of the office inventory across top seven cities exceeding 10 years in age. Of the estimated 882 million sq ft of total stock, more than 434 million sq ft—based on ownership and asset age—qualifies for strategic retrofitting. Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR account for nearly 45% of this older inventory, followed by Mumbai and Chennai with another 32%.

The report noted that this transformation isn't just aesthetic. Upgraded buildings can command rental premiums of up to 20%, and in some cases, even 30–40% based on market demand. This makes retrofitting a smart strategy for developers and investors to align with rising occupier expectations around sustainability, wellness, and tech-readiness.

Retrofitting offers both immediate and long-term advantages. Tenants benefit from lower operating costs, improved amenities, and healthier work environments. Landlords gain higher leasing velocity, stronger tenant retention, and improved asset valuation. Enhanced safety, energy efficiency, and ESG alignment make such properties more appealing to institutional investors and REITs, boosting asset liquidity.

The push for modern, high-performance workspaces is also a response to evolving workplace expectations. Retrofitted buildings can include smart systems, modular designs, wellness features like gyms and daycare facilities, and even community-centric additions.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, emphasised that retrofitting has become a strategic imperative. "This is no longer about cosmetic upgrades," he said, adding that retrofitting is now a sophisticated, data-backed approach to transforming real estate assets to meet long-term sustainability and financial goals.

Echoing the sentiment, Gurjot Bhatia, Managing Director - Asia, PJM Advisory, Turner & Townsend, stated, "India's office sector is at a critical juncture. With 434 million sq ft of space ready for transformation, the focus must be on creating future-ready workplaces that cater to modern occupier needs and ESG-focused investment." As Bengaluru leads the national push towards retrofitting, the city's commercial real estate sector is set to make new benchmarks in asset performance, investor returns, and occupier satisfaction.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ankit Budur Lulla S/O Anil Budur Lulla R/O F 216, 2nd Floor, Purva Graces Apartment, Amruthahalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560092, have changed my name to ANKIT L .

I, Vijay Athrassery S/o Mohanan R/at Obel Shanti, Flat No.342, Third Floor, 13th Cross Road, Horamavu, Near Vincent Palloti School, Prakruti Township, Horamavu, Horamavu PO, Bengaluru – 560043 have changed my name from Athrassery Vijay Mohanan to Vijay Athrassery for all purposes vide Affidavit dtd:04/06/2025 before Notary Uday Kumar K.

I, SARANYA VENKATESAN residing at Villa 182, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Varthur Main Road, Gunjur, Bengaluru 560087. I have changed my name to SARANYA KRISHNAMOORTHY. Vide affidavit dated 06/06/2025 sworn before notary. S N Madhu Bengaluru

I, RAJAMMA W/o. Rajashekara, residing at No. 92, 2nd floor, 7th Cross, 17th Main, BTM Layout(E.W.S), 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name to RAJESHWARI, vide affidavit dated 31.05.2025, sworn before notary Mohammed Hussain K, Bangalore.

I, Neha Yash Bafna R/o No 110/10 3rd Cross Yeshwantpur Bangalore 560022 Have Changed My Name From Neha Kailash Chand to Neha Yash Bafna for All Purpose

I, Jawali Namrata Jaiprakash.w/o Ramesh.M, R/o. No-669 ,2nd cross,6th main,HMT layout,Ganga Nagar, B'luru 560032 have changed my name to Namrata Javali for all purposes.

I G Shivanna S/O, Gangaiha R/o C/0 Ganagaih No 00 Nalamangala Taluk, Sompura Hobli, Machanahalli, Billanakota, Bangalore Rarul Karanataka 562111 have changed my name to M G Shivanna.

I, Syed Athaullah Syed Mehboob S/o Syed Mahaboob R/o 43,11th Main BTM 1st Stage new Guruppanpalya B'lore-560025 have changed my name to Syed Athaullah.

I, Syed Athaullah Syed Waseeb S/o Syed Mehboob R/o 43,11th Main BTM 1st Stage new Guruppanpalya B'lore-560025 have changed my name to Syed Waseeb.

I, Umamaheswari Gutti W/o Vinod Kumar Gutti, R/o No 2-88 Ramannapeta, Opp Sivalayam Temple Road, Vtc: Vetapalem, District: Bapatla , State: Andhra Pradesh, Pincode: 523187, Have Changed My Name To Kolukula Umamaheswari

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Quirky spin to mood

Actor Ali Fazal took to social media to share a light-hearted moment with wife Richa Chadha, giving his "Metro In Dino" mood a quirky twist. He shared a self-shot video with the track from his upcoming romantic drama

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

In father's footsteps

Rituparno Ghosh's movie Khela with an ensemble cast was released in 2008. Now, Bharath VJ, son of producer-cum-director Vishnukanth, debuts as a producer and director in Sandalwood with his film Khela. Vihan Prabhanjan, known for his sterling performance in tele serials Shravani Subrahmanya and Myna, plays the lead in the movie bankrolled by Bharath under the Bharath Films banner.

A function was held to unveil one of the songs of the movie. Velmurugan, a well-known playback singer, sung the song Punyath Gitthee while MS Tyagaraj scored music. "Though the movie is a love story, it has elements such as mother-son bond and suspense. The first song of the movie was unveiled on the occasion of International Mother's Day last month. Now, we have unveiled the second song. The shooting of the movie, except a song and an action scene, is completed," said Bharath.

Vihan Prabhanjan said after the success of the first song, this new song was being liked by all.

New director

Raghavan Karthik, who began his career as music composer for music albums, debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with The Grand Illusion. Raghavan has also scored its music. The movie's teaser and the first song – Anuragadi Aralidamana - were unveiled by veteran character actor Umesh and director Pallakki Radhakrishna. Playback singer Pratima Bhat has sung the song. The pre-production works of the movie are in progress.

According to Raghavan, the movie revolves around a woman and nine important characters. "This movie is expected to be a mix of reality and illusion. The movie will highlight the important issues of the world. The script work has been completed. The process of selecting cast and crew is in progress. We want the movie to go on floors shortly. We have conveyed through the teaser what we wanted to convey through the movie," said Raghavan.

Appreciating Raghavan for the quality of the teaser, Umesh said he was very happy to attend the function and conveyed good luck to the director.

WITH FAMILY'S BLESSINGS

Padmini reveals how niece Shraddha chooses her roles

Veteran actress Padmini Kolhapure recently opened up about the thoughtful approach her niece, Shraddha Kapoor, takes when selecting film roles.

According to Padmini, the 'Stree' actress doesn't make decisions in isolation; instead, she carefully considers advice from her close family members before finalising her choices. Padmini shared with IANS that Shraddha often discusses potential projects with her mother, Shivangi Kolhapure; sister, Tejaswini, father Shakti Kapoor, and even Padmini herself. The senior actress mentioned that this collective support system helps the young actress weigh the pros and cons of each opportunity, ensuring that she makes well-informed decisions that align with her career goals and personal values.

Padmini revealed that despite taking input from her family, Shraddha ultimately trusts her own instincts. The 'Vidhaata' actress shared, "Advice, in the sense Shraddha discusses. like with my sister Tejaswini, her mom Shivangi, me, her father, and, of course, also my husband. So, because she hears everybody, she kind of weighs the pros and cons, and then she goes ahead with her decisions in picking the films."

Padmini Kolhapure is Shraddha Kapoor's aunt. Padmini's elder sister, Shivangi Kolhapure, who was also an actress, is married to veteran actor Shakti Kapoor and is the mother of actors Shraddha Kapoor and Siddhanth Kapoor.

—IANS

Akhil ties the knot

Southern actor Akhil Akkineni exchanged wedding vows with Zainab Ravdjee on Friday. The lovebirds got married in a traditional ceremony at the Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad in the presence of their close family and friends.

Many photographs from the intimate wedding are doing rounds on social media. Akhil's parents, Nagarjuna and Amala Akkineni were also seen blessing the newlyweds on their new journey together. Accompanying them were Akhil's brother and sister-in-law - Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala. Other big names from the South film industry such as Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan, and Prashanth Neel also graced the happy occasion. Akhil made for a handsome groom in a pancha, Zainab looked beautiful in an ivory saree, paired with diamond jewelry, some complimenting makeup, and a gajra.

The couple is yet to share their wedding pictures. Akhil and Zainab announced their engagement back in November last year. The 'Agent' actor dropped some love-stuck pictures on his Instagram handle in matching white ensembles, and wrote, "Happy to announce that Zainab Ravdjee and I are happily engaged"

—IANS

Good dose of romance and action

College Kalavida

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Sanjay Malavalli
- **ACTORS** Aarav Surya, Chaithra Lokanath, Harini Shreekanth, Ramesh Bhat, Huli Karthik
- **Duration** 116 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Sanjay Malavalli has tried his best to entertain audiences with a film that has a mix of romance, action, comedy and sentiments.

The movie begins with an introduction song where Arya (Aarav Surya) and his friends are seen dancing on the campus. Later, the director introduces a flashback to narrate how Arya fell in love with Sarika (Chaithra Lokanath) who hails from Kasaragod and joins the same college as Arya. Arya's mother (Harini Shreekanth) wants him to get married as she is not keeping in good health. Arya wants to propose to Sarika at the campus and bring her home to introduce to his mother. However, Sarika happens to see police taking Arya into custody. She decides to keep him away from her. After four years, he decides to go to Kasaragod to meet her. You have to watch the movie to know whether he succeeds in meeting his lover.

Aarav Surya can become an asset to Sandalwood if he focuses on acting. His dialogue delivery and body language are good. He is very good in action scenes. Chaithra Lokanath looks glamorous but she has to hone her acting skills. Though Huli Karthik, who acted as the sidekick of the hero, provides comedy, in a few scenes, especially in the classroom, it looks like he is overacting.

Veteran actor Ramesh Bhat provides good support. Harini Shreekanth has acted well. Tarun Kumar Sharma, who bankrolled the movie, has the potential to become an actor in Sandalwood.

Music by Suraj Jois is good. Cinematographer Anand Sundaresha has done an excellent job behind the camera, especially in capturing the greenery which is a visual treat.

It is worth a watch for all.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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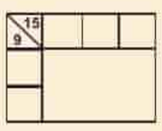
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

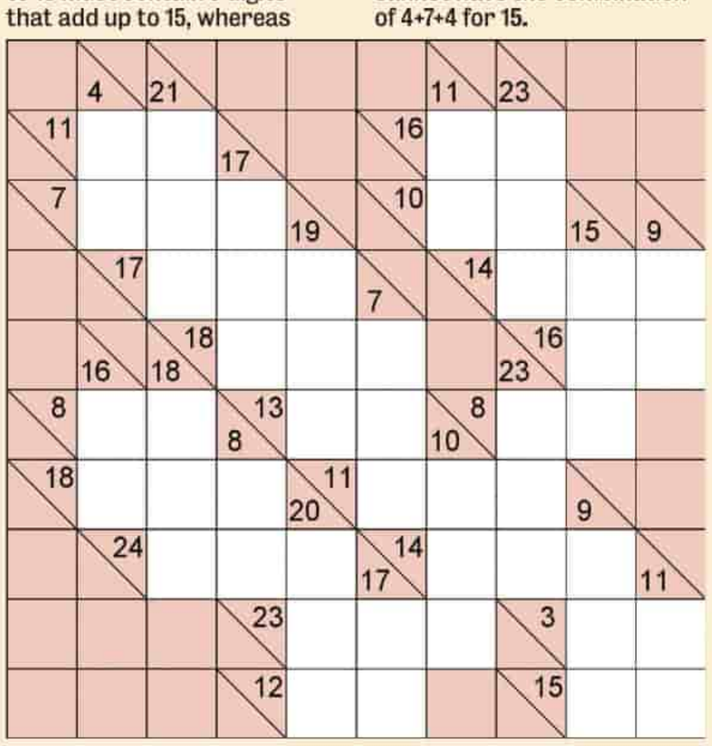
(0.1 x a) / (100 /100) = 40
√a = ?

Kakuro

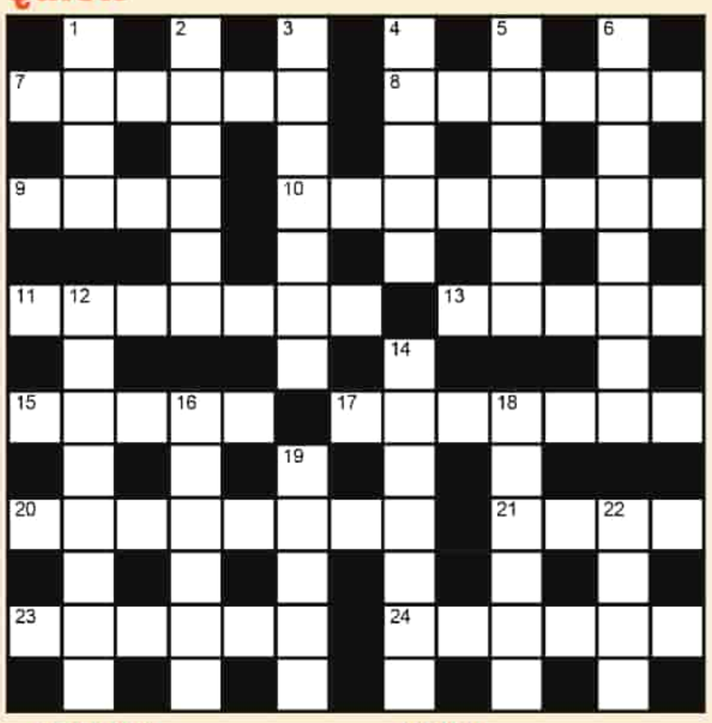
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Long loose dress (6)
8 Mythical monster (6)
9 Conflagration (4)
10 Know __ ___ : be conversant with? (3,5)
11 Single occasion (3,4)
13 Frequently (5)
15 Puts up with regardless (5)
17 False argument (7)
20 Heavy shower (8)
21 Bivalve (4)
23 Mr. Chakraborty of Bollywood (6)
24 Cricketing side (6)

DOWN

1 Cab (4)
2 Road (6)
3 Body structure (7)
4 Advantages (5)
5 Remote (3-3)
6 Anticipates (8)
12 Nervous derangement (8)
14 Gastronome (7)
16 Curry containing pork (6)
18 Sport on ice or grass (6)
19 Imperial weight (5)
22 It fits to _ ___ (it fits perfectly) (1,3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS H

D QDZSBQRM QWZUXL ZK D KSWTXF LUQUXKU; DXL BU SBDS BDSB QTRXL BZO BDSB QTRXL D SWUDKRWU.

Linemaro

Forget about Spiderman, Superman and Batman. I'll be your man

Mindchow

Words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling like dew, upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think

Joke of the day

The metric system did not catch on in the US, unless you count the increasing popularity of the nine-millimetre bullet

Loop

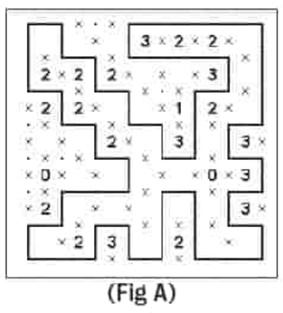
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

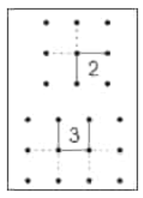
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

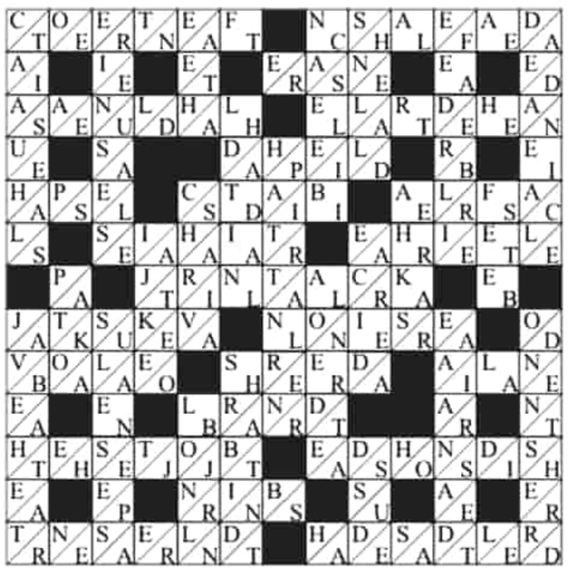


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		D		

ACROSS

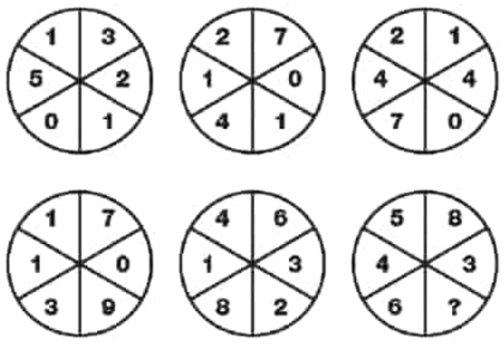
1 To sop; 6 RU car; 7 Rasta; 8 Tange; 9 Dig me

DOWN

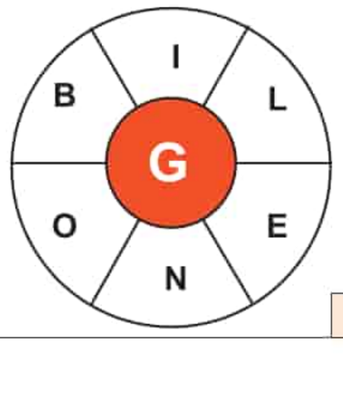
1 Crams; 2 Rig at; 3 Due to; 4 Organ; 5 Pates

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; 18 Good; 20 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2			7			1	
	5	4				3	8	
			4		6			
8		6		2		4		5
			9		3			
3		1		5		6		2
			5		8			
	1	3				8	2	
	8			9			6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12
2 2 4 8

Medium = 24
1 2 4 7

Hard = 22
1 6 7 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

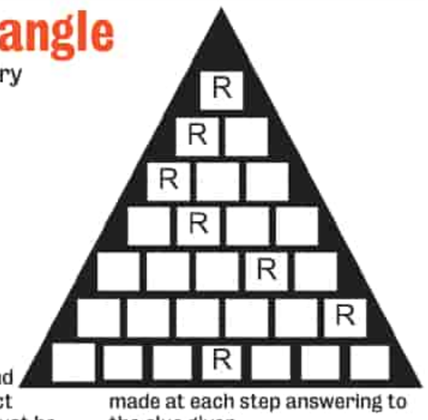
Differences: 1. Bottom rail is higher. 2. Sign is tilted. 3. Leaves are added. 4. Pocket is higher. 5. Branch is missing. 6. Sleeve is longer.

Riddler

Jake and his friend Paco had very famous challenge sessions at their school. One would suggest something they could do, and the other would prove it wrong somehow. One day, Jake surprised Paco by stating: "I can answer any question in the world." Sure that he would win the challenge, Paco accepted the task of proving it wrong. He wrote up a test full of impossible questions. After a while, Jake returned the test. Paco unbelievably lost the challenge and told Jake he could indeed answer any question. How did Jake win?

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Again, prefix
3 Female ruff
4 Forest unit
5 Apply force
6 Devonshire city
7 Radical



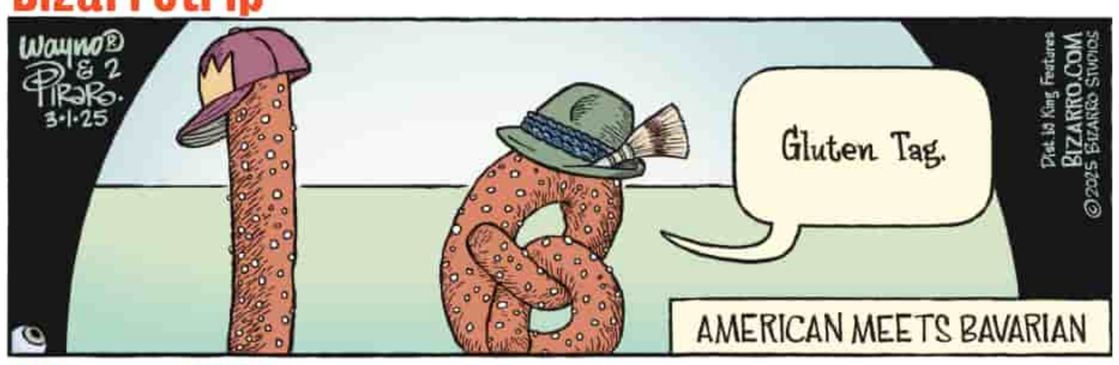
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may feel low and face minor health issues that impact your productivity. An unexplained fear or emotional sensitivity could trouble you. Avoid rash driving and adventurous travel. You may feel drawn to spiritual practices—visiting a religious place, chanting mantras, or prayer could bring peace of mind.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The day offers quality time with your family and romantic bonding with your spouse. You may invest in home decor or renovation artefacts. Social events or parties are likely. However, be cautious and thoroughly read all documents before investing in real estate or fixed assets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel energetic and optimistic. Self-reflection could boost your confidence and help you tackle challenges with ease. However, remain cautious with financial decisions in business. Lovebirds are likely to enjoy a peaceful, affectionate day.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is filled with promise and enthusiasm. Self-analysis will increase your confidence and social reputation. Clear communication can help resolve ongoing issues. Avoid speculative investments. You might also consider pursuing higher education or career advancement.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Discontent may arise in both personal and professional life. Avoid ego clashes, especially with your spouse, to protect emotional bonds. Issues in partnerships can be resolved with patience. Singles should not rush into decisions related to marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may successfully execute business plans with your team's support. Participation in social or family gatherings can expand your network. A short business trip might prove beneficial in the long run. Today favors professional growth and networking.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Financial stability improves as gains from past investments emerge. Cutting back on unnecessary spending will increase your savings. Lovebirds are advised to speak gently and avoid misunderstandings during conversations.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Family and sibling matters may occupy your attention. You could start a new venture with support from relatives or your network. A new order may benefit your family business. With minimal effort, smart gains are possible—networking plays a crucial role today.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Mental challenges may arise today. Impatience or arrogance could affect your decision-making and slow progress. Avoid investing in stagnant or unproductive assets. Seek blessings from elders to overcome obstacles. Couples should avoid unnecessary arguments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel distracted at the start of the day, but support from elders will help you regain focus. Required resources for completing tasks will become available. Income may rise, and earlier losses might turn into gains, improving your financial outlook.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A new business order could improve your cash flow. Meeting an influential person may help expand your enterprise. Stronger connections with your boss might lead to a promotion. Your professional image is likely to strengthen.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessings from elders may bring peace and clarity. You'll feel calm and content, possibly considering a spiritual trip. Donations to a spiritual cause are likely. An opportunity for overseas travel might also present itself.

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER For all the impossible questions, Jake simply wrote "I don't know", or gave an incorrect answer. Jake never said the answer had to be correct!

BULL'S EYE
begin, being, belong, bilge, binge, bingo, bribe, glen, gill, glob, globe, goblin, gone, oblige, IGNOBLE, legion, ling, lingo, loge, long, ogle

FAST FIVE

S	T	O	O	P
C	R	U	R	A
R	A	T	A	S
A	G	E	N	T
M	I	D	G	E

QUOTE UNCODE A faithful friend is a strong defense; And he that hath found him hath found a treasure.

STRIKE OUT

C	O	R	N	E	T	■	C	H	A	F	E	D	■	■
A	■	I	■	T	■	R	A	E	■	E	■	■	■	■
S	A	N	D	A	L	■	L	A	T	E	E	N	■	■
U	■	S	■	A	■	A	P	E	D	■	B	■	I	■
A	P	E	■	S	T	A	B	■	A	L	■	L	A	■
A	■	E	■	B	A	R	T	■	■	R	■	■	N	■
T	H	E	J	O	B	■	A	D	O	N	I	S	■	■
V	O	L	E	■	H	E	R	D	■	A	L	E	■	■
A	T	S	E	A	■	N	O	I	S	E	■	D	■	■
■	P	■	T	I	N	T	A	C	K	■	B	■	■	■
L	■	S	A	H	I	R	■	A	R	E	E	L	■	■
R	E	S	E	N	T	■	H	E	A	D	E	R	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Starting with the circle on the top left, and moving to the right, top row then bottom row, the sum of the numbers in each circle follows the sequence 12, 15, 18, 21 etc.

SOLVE IN 1M
10a / (200 x 2) = 1600; √1600 = 40
a = ((40 x 400) / 10)

SUDOKU

6	2	8	3	7	5	9	1	4
7	5	4	2	1	9	3	8	6
1	3	9	4	8	6	2	5	7
8	9	6	7	2	1	4	3	5
2	4	5	9	6	3	1	7	8
3	7	1	8	5	4	6	9	2
9	6	2	5	3	8	7	4	1
5	1	3	6	4	7	8	2	9
4	8	7	1	9	2	5	6	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Ree, Tree, Exert, Exeter, Extreme.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 2 + 8 − 2 = 12
Medium
7 − 2 + 1 x 4 = 24
Hard
9 + 7 + 6 x 1 = 22

LOOP

KAKURO

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